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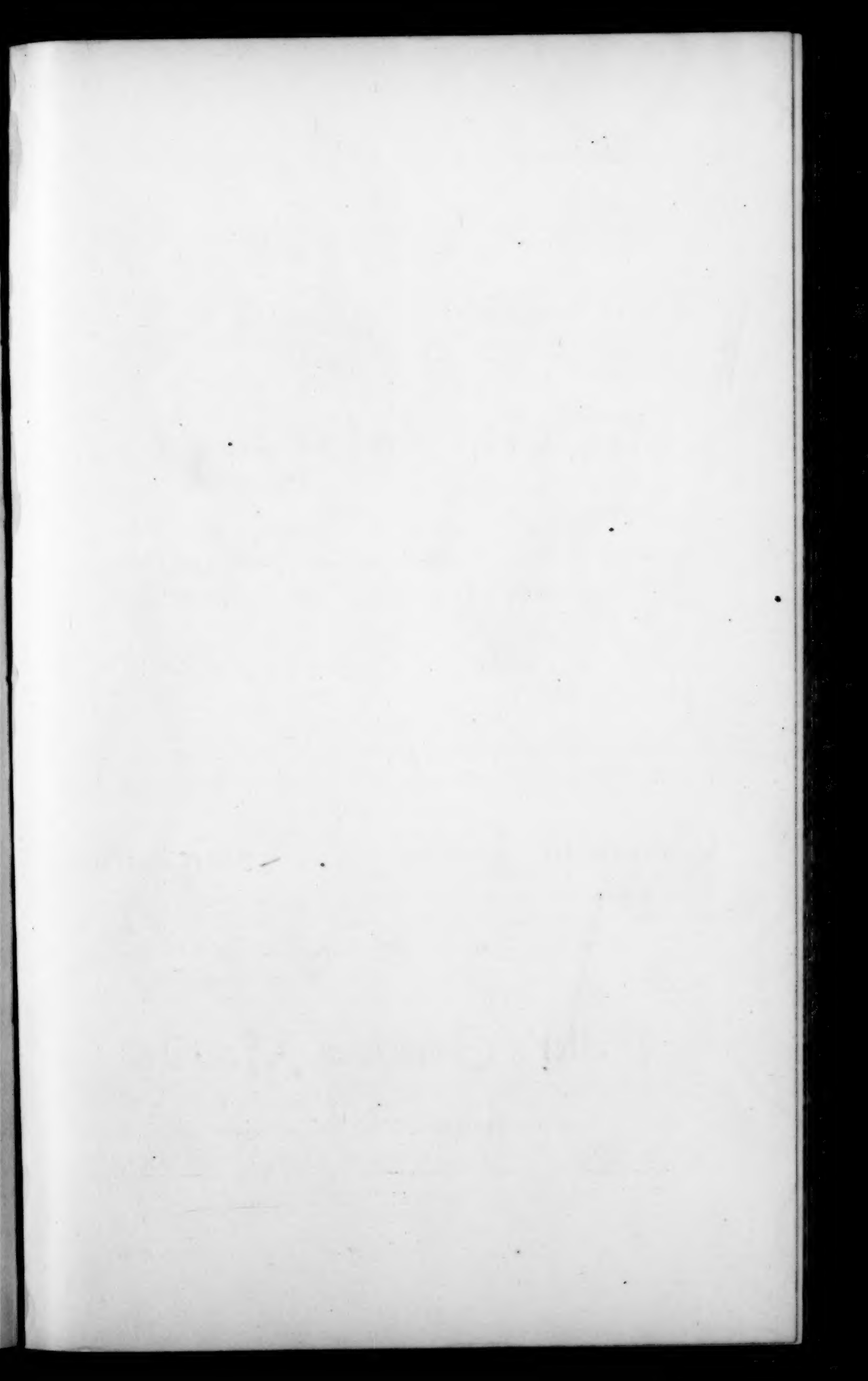
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FIRST MEXICAN SILVER COINS.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS,

AND

Bulletin of American Numismatic and Archæological Societies.

VOL. XVI.

BOSTON, APRIL, 1882.

No. 4.

EARLY SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE COINAGE IN AMERICA.

[Continued from Vol. XVI., p. 29.]

FIRST MEXICAN SILVER COINS.

THE Mexican Mint probably began coining the *tostones* or *medio pesos* first, and the *pesos* or dollars were the last to appear. We shall, however, begin with the smaller pieces, as more convenient for collectors. The half real or *medio* was the smallest silver coin; next, the *real de plata* or eighth of a *peso*, then the *pezeta* of two reals, and the *toston*, known at first as the *medio peso* or four real piece. We cannot here give all the names that these pieces bore in the English colonies, but it would be worth while to bring such information into a collected form. Heiss assigns the following mercantile values to the Spanish American pieces. The *peso*, twenty; the *toston*, four; the *pezeta* and *real*, one dollar, for fine ones. He values the small *medio real*, of which he had seen but one, at five dollars, but these estimates remain to be tested by our collectors.

As all the silver pieces about to be described have certain characteristics in common, it is useless to repeat these for each one. Thus, the inscriptions are always placed between two beaded circles more or less distinctly grained: the obverse bears the arms of Spain, showing Castile, Leon and Grenada, on a plain Norman shield, which is crowned above, the crown as broad as the shield, showing five fleuron points, occupying the width of the border. The lettering is in Roman capitals, and the columns are all crowned, parallel, and standing in a wavy sea, unless otherwise stated. D, the diameter, is given in sixteenths of an English inch, and W, the weight, in grains. The work quoted from is that of Heiss, Vol. I, whose title has been already given. The Catalogue of the Transatlantic Coins and Medals, relating to America, of the Jules Fonrobert Collection, prepared by Adolph Weyl, appeared in Berlin in 1878, and the sale of these was held on the 18th of February of that year.

MEDIO REALES.

IX. *Obv. Leg.* CHAROLUS 8 ET 8 IOHANA 8 REGS ✠ *Field*, Two large initials K I (Karolus, Iohana), with broad crown covering them above, curved circlet. M on left, G on right, and centre dot 8 between.

Rev. Leg. HISPANI . . . M 8 ET 0 INDIAR 0 ✠ *Field*, Two crowned columns standing in a wavy sea, and letters P | L·V | S. D. 12½. W. 27 grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6211.

X. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS 0 ET 0 IOH ES ✠ *Field*, As in IX, circlet of crown beaded; M on right and left, o in centre.

Rev. Leg. ISPANIA INDIAR *Field*, Two columns as in IX, and letters P | L·V | S. D. 13. W. 25 grains. Heiss. 147, 13. Pl. 27. 13. Value 25 pesetas.

Plate III, No. 1. From Heiss.

XI. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS 0 ET 0 IOHANA REGS 0 *Field*, As in IX, L on left, o on right, M below.

Rev. Leg. HISPANIA·V 0 ET 0 INDIAR ✠ *Field*, As in IX, letters P | L·V | S. D. 13. W. 24 grains. Collection of Benj. Betts, Esq., Brooklyn, N. Y.

XII. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS 0 GS ✠ *Field*, As in IX, M on left, o on right, dot in centre.

Rev. Leg. PANIARVM 0 ET 0 IN . . . *Field*, As in IX, letters P | L·V | S. D. 11. W. 21 grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6223.

XIII. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS 0 ET *Field*, Arms on shield, crowned, letters L on left M on right.

Rev. Leg. HISPANIARVM 0 ET 0 I *Field*, As in IX, letters PL | VS | VL. D. 12. (Much clipped.) W. 30 grains.

Betts Collection.

We believe that IX may have been among the first coined, on account of the spelling, CHAROLVS. IX to XII have the large initials KI on obverse, while XIII has the Spanish arms, probably a later alteration. These pieces were the American half reals, known in the English colonies as *sixpence*, and passed, until 1853, for six and a quarter United States cents.

REALES DE PLATA.

XIV. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS 0 E . . IOHANA 0 REGS *Field*, Arms on shield, crowned, L or I on left, M on right.

Rev. Leg. HI ARVM 0 ET 0 INDIARVM ✠ *Field*, Two crowned columns standing in a wavy sea, inclined outwards, letters PL | V'S | VL. D. 15. W. 58 grains.

Betts Collection.

XV. *Obv. and Rev.* as in XIV, except M on left of shield, L on right. D. 14. W. 32 grains?

Fonrobert Cat. 6215.

XVI. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS 0 ET 0 IOHANA RGES *Field*, As in XIV, except M on left, o on right.

Rev. Leg. HISPANIARVM 0 ET 0 INDIARM ✠ *Field*, Two columns and letters as in XIV, columns upright? D. 15½. W. 50 grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6221.

XVII. *Obv.* Same as XVI, except that an o is on the right.

Rev. Leg. HISPANIARVM 0 ET 0 INDIARVM ✠ *Field*, Two columns, upright, letters PL | V'S | VL. D. 15. W. 51½ grains. Heiss. 147, Pl. 27, 12.

Pl. III. No. 2, from Heiss.

XVIII. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS • ET • IOHANA • REGES *Field,* As in XIV, \hat{M} on left, L on right.

Rev. Same as XVII. D. 16. W. $51\frac{1}{2}$ grains. Heiss. 147, Pl. 27, 11.
Pl. III. No. 3, from Heiss.

XIX. *Obv. Leg.* Same as XVIII, except that \hat{M} is on left, A on right.

Rev. Same as XIV, columns upright? D. 15. W. $46\frac{1}{2}$ grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6209.

XX. *Obv. Leg.* Same as XVIII. L on left, \hat{M} on right.

Rev. As in XVII. Letters R like a B without a part of its lower loop (R).
D. 15. W. $46\frac{1}{2}$ grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6208.

XXI. *Obv.* Corresponds to description of XX.

Rev. As in XVII, but PL nearly its height below the other letters. D. 15.
(Much clipped.) W. 59 grains.

Betts Collection.

XXII. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS • ET • IOHANA • R *Field,* Arms and crown, G on left, M on right.

Rev. Leg. HISPANIARVM • ET • IND . . . VM ✠ Columns and letters, but without the centre dot. D. 16. W. 60 grains.

Betts Collection.

These are varieties of the real, of eight to the peso, known in the English colonies as the York shilling, or twelve and a half United States cents. The first and last ones weigh more than the others. The average weight of the real ought to be 52 grains.

PEZETAS.

XXIII. *Obv. Leg.* KAROLVS • ET • IOHANA (Gothic letters.)
Field, Arms on shield, crowned; \hat{M} (Gothic) on each side.

Rev. HISPANI • ET • INDIARV • x • (Gothic letters.) *Field,* Two crowned columns, over which a label curved at ends, bearing PLVS VLT, with two large points above and R below. D. 20. W. 94 grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6216.

XXIV. *Obv. Leg.* KAROLVS • ET • IOHANA (divided by two lozenges.)
Field, On each side of shield M with small o above and below it.

Rev. Leg. HISPANIARVM • ET • INDIARV • ✠ (divided by three lozenges and Maltese cross.) *Field,* Two heavily crowned columns, *not* in a sea. A bordered label with beads at corners, in the form of a long oblique-angled parallelogram, behind the columns, bearing a large voided point on each side of them, and between them PLVS. Two large points above and G below between the bases. D. 18. W. $93\frac{3}{4}$ grains. Heiss. 147, Pl. 27, 8.

Pl. III. Fig. IV.

XXV. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS • ET • IOHANA • REGES (divided by three voided points.) *Field,* As before, with L reversed on left, M on right.

Rev. Leg. HISPANIARVM • INDIARVM ✠ *Field,* Two crowned columns inclined outwards, standing in a wavy sea, with letters PLV | SVL | TR and two large points over centre. D. 18. W. 96 grains. Heiss. 147, Pl. 27, 9.

Pl. III. Fig. 5.

XXVI. *Obv. Leg.* Same as XXV. *Field,* As before, L on left, M on right.

Rev. Leg. and *Field* same as XXV. D. 17½. W. 105 grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6207.

The same piece or one very much like it is in the Betts Collection.

XXVII. *Obv. Leg.* Same as XXV. *Field,* As before, M on left, L on right.

Rev. Leg. Same as XXV. D. 17½. W. 105 grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6214.

XXVIII. *Obv. Leg.* CAROLVS 8 ET 8 IOHANA REGES *Field,* As before, M on left, O on right.

Rev. Leg. HISPANIARVM 8 ET 8 INDIARVM 8 ✠ *Field,* Same as XXV and XXVI. D. 18½. W. 101 grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6218.

Another, D. 17. W. 106½ grains. Same Cat. 6219.

XXIX. A piece imperfectly described, but resembling XXVIII. The *Obv. Leg.* has INDIAR-VM ✠ and on the *Rev. Field,* P of PLV omitted. D. 16½. W. 103½ grains.

Fonrobert Cat. 6220.

These *pezetas* are the quarters of the *peso* or dollar, whose value in the United States was twenty-five cents, and a piece of this value forms one of our fractional silver coinage. The Anglo-American *pound currency* contained twenty *Spanish reals*, or two dollars and a half. Thirty years ago, the New York marketmen were still using this pound, with its twenty shillings (or *reals*) in their accounts.

J. CARSON BREVOORT.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.

FROM the Annual Report of the Director of the Mint, we take a few items of numismatic interest. One of the first matters which attracts attention is the statement of gold coin which has been imported during the year, which, in round numbers, was one hundred million dollars. At the New York Assay office \$91,500,000 of foreign gold was received, and the production in gold of the American mines was maintained within a few thousand dollars of that of the preceding year. The number of pieces coined during the fiscal year was upwards of seventy-six millions, at a value of nearly \$107,000,000. We give the coinage executed during the *Calendar* year, ending December 31, 1880, which fell a little short of that for the fiscal year, which ends June 30, 1881, as it shows the number of pieces bearing date 1880. The value of these pieces was a little above ninety millions of dollars.

Gold.—Double Eagles, 887,456 pieces; Eagles, 2,171,516; Half Eagles, 4,566,353; Three Dollar pieces, 1,036; Quarter Eagles, 2,996; Dollars, 1636. *Silver.*—Dollars, 27,397,355; Half Dollars, 9,755; Quarter Dollars, 14,955; Dimes, 37,355. *Minor Coinage.*—Five Cents, 19,955; Three Cents, 24,955; One Cent, 38,964,955; Proof Trade Dollars, 1,987.

The Engraver of the Mint at Philadelphia prepared 1229 dies for coinage, and 13 for medals and experimental pieces. Among these were 6 experimental dies; 26 for proof coinage; one, a reproduction of the John Edgar Howard Medal; two for the "Tea-farm" Medal (Wm. G. Le Duc); two for the

Life-saving Medal awarded by the Department of State, and two for the Annual Assay Medal.

As to fineness, the record states that in all cases, both in mass and single pieces, the coins from Philadelphia, San Francisco, and New Orleans were found to be correct, and safely within the limits of tolerance. But the committee on assaying reported that, in the case of the Carson Mint, they found the assay of mass melt of silver to be very low, but within tolerance, and that one single piece showed a fineness below the limits of tolerance. This fact was reported to the President, as required by law.

The Assayer of the Mint Bureau, in 1880, in his assay of the coins required monthly to be forwarded to the Director for test, had discovered that a silver coin of the Carson Mint, from the coiner's July delivery of that year, was below the legal limit of tolerance. The Superintendent of that Mint was immediately directed not to pay out, but to retain in his possession all of the coins of that delivery, and to seal up, until further orders, all packages which might contain any of such coins, after selecting and forwarding to the Director sample coins from each package for further test. Ninety-six packages, each containing one thousand dollars, were thus sealed up and reserved for further assays at the bureau; and a special examination made by Andrew Mason, Melter and Refiner of the New York Assay Office, in conformity with the order of the President to investigate the matter, confirmed the previous assays, and demonstrated that the fineness of a certain bar of bullion, about to be melted for coinage, had been incorrectly stated to the Melter and Refiner of the Carson Mint, and that ingots of defective fineness made therefrom had afterward passed the assay department of that Mint without detection. It did not appear that the error had occurred through the neglect of the Assayer's subordinates, and as the Assayer himself had died shortly after the first discovery of the defective coinage, it became unnecessary to take any further action, except to order all the coins contained in the ninety-six packages to be remelted for coinage, which was done.

THE STUDY OF GREEK COINS.

Editors of the Journal :

YOUR extract from the article of Prof. Charles E. Norton on the value of Greek coins for study of the fine arts, called to mind the following note of the late learned President and Professor of Greek, Cornelius C. Felton, of Harvard University. J.

CAMBRIDGE, Oct. 31, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,

Thinking of coins this morning, I was reminded of my neglect in acknowledging your very beautiful and valuable book.* It was new to me, and will be of direct practical utility in my College teaching: and the coins are so well engraved that the book will be an ornament to my library.

I thank you very heartily for this kind attention: I shall make a record in the book itself of the source from which it came, and shall show my sense of its value by extracting from it all its exact and learned information for the benefit of my pupils.

With much regard, yours ever,

C. C. FELTON.

* Lord Northwick's Greek Coins.

THE MONEYS OF BIBLE TIMES.

UNTIL within a very recent period, the Biblical scholars of America were but poorly informed relative to the moneys of Bible times. The method pursued by the translators of the Received Version of Scripture, in their efforts to render Greek money-terms into English, made "confusion worse confounded." For instance, in the case of the husbandman who paid the good wages of a denarius (16 cents) for the day's work, the translators give an erroneous idea of the text by limiting him to *two cents* (a "penny") a day. Had they been content to transfer numismatic terms, as they did many theological terms, the reader would know by reference to a dictionary the value of the denarius and other ancient coins.*

Twenty years ago, the press abounded with references to a coin preserved in the Mint at Philadelphia, a veritable "mite" it was said, like that which the widow consecrated to the Lord at Jerusalem. It became the custom of many pious Christians living in the vicinity of the "City of Brotherly Love" to make a pilgrimage to the Mint, and have a look at that "Widow's Mite." So much interest was taken in it that the late J. Ross Snowden, then connected with that institution, was encouraged to publish a series of papers, entitled "The Coins of the Bible," afterwards gathered into a volume. In that work, of which the second volume is before me, two chapters are devoted to the subject of "the Mite," and he describes with particulars the little coin in question. "It was found on Mount Ophel," he says, "near the site of the ancient temple of Jerusalem. It bears but little distinguishing in the marks upon it, except the first letter of the Greek word, Lepton."

Now, a single glance at a Numismatic Dictionary (Rasche's, for instance,) would have shown the writer that the letter L in Greek is never used to represent the word "Lepton," nor is the name of any ancient coin denoted by its initial letter. I have seen the little piece referred to, and if, indeed, the indistinct mark upon it is Λ , the Greek *lambda*, (and not an alpha, which is quite as likely,) the reference is to *its date*, the Greek L being the numeral letter for 30. But the piece is in no wise more remarkable than any similar scrap exhumed by the pint and quart from the rubbish that fills the valleys around Jerusalem, as in all ruined places in that country. I have bought pecks of such, mostly in a condition as illegible as the one in the Philadelphia Mint.

But few of them, however, correspond with the "mites" of the poor widow, except in their smallness and insignificance. Hers were the *sacred money* struck by Jewish priests, having no portraits of gods, goddesses, or rulers, and no heathen inscriptions to render them unworthy the offering to the Most High. They had ascriptions that were national and elevated. Their emblems were few and unattractive, but in the eyes of the Jews, significant and holy. In a collection of hundreds of such pieces gathered by myself and others around Jerusalem, nearly the whole range of Bible moneys can be studied.

Here are fifty or more, weighing from thirty-five to forty grains each, black copper, a good deal worn by use, but legible. The reverse has two cor-

* It is true that the marginal reference says that the value of a denarius or "Roman Penny is the eighth part of an ounce, which after five shillings the ounce is seven pence half penny," but editions with the marginal notes

are not in the hands of everybody, and of those who have them, it is to be feared not every one reads them; and again the value is expressed in English money, which is not familiar currency to American readers.

nucopias and a poppy head, emblems of the fertility of Judæa. The other side, in five lines of Samaritan Hebrew, tells us of *Jehochanan Hakkohen, Haggadol Vecheber Hajehudim*, which any Jewish rabbi will translate for us as "Jonathan the High Priest (Cohen) and the Confederation of the Jews." This gives the date as between B. C. 135 and B. C. 136. John Hyrcanus was the son and immediate successor of Simon Maccabæus; and as we find numerous examples of the coins named, it is presumed the mintage of such was very large.

Here is a package of ten or fifteen specimens of copper pieces, a little heavier than the last, weighing from 83 to 86 grains each. Upon the obverse side is a cup or chalice of the same form as that on the silver shekel. The epigraph in Samaritan letters is *Ligullath Zion*, "the Redemption of Zion." On the reverse side are three emblems; the central figure, a bundle of branches, called by the Jews *Lulab*, such as were used by them to represent the festal branch which every one was to carry at the Feast of the Tabernacles. They were composed of willow, myrtle and palm, and in the formal procession were carried in the *right hand*. On each side of the *Lulab* is a citron, the odorous yellow fruit which so delights the eye and nostrils of the traveler at Joppa, at the present time. The citron was called by the Jews *Ethrog*, and in the procession was carried in the left hand. The epigraph read *Shenath arba*, "in the fourth year." Combining the inscriptions upon both sides, they make the sentence, "In the fourth year (of) the Redemption of Zion." This gives the date at B. C. 136, according to the best conclusions.

In future papers I may continue this subject. The reader who wishes to follow the subject of Jewish coinage, may read De Saulcy in French, by far the best authority, or Madden, in English. He must not be frightened to find that the subject of Hebrew numismatics, like all other subjects open to the mind of man, has its debates and contentions. Writers argue as fiercely about *gamma* and *delta* as ambassadors over a national question. "There is nothing worth studying that is not worth debating," and these monuments of antiquity, often nearly illegible, presenting but little that appeals to modern thought, naturally originate a variety of theories. Yet as to the main facts all are agreed.

La Grange, Ky.

ROBERT MORRIS.

THE FIRST ASSAYER OF THE UNITED STATES MINT.

IN the possession of Mr. Caleb Jones, of Philadelphia, is the original commission issued by Washington, as President of the United States, to Albion Cox, of London, the first Assayer of the United States Mint. Mr. Cox was invited from England to that city, while it was still the national capital, expressly to aid him in establishing the Mint and in determining its situation. Such is the tradition in the family, the wife of Mr. Jones being the daughter by a second marriage of the lady whose first husband was the gentleman above referred to. Mr. Cox's marriage took place shortly after his arrival in this country, but he did not long survive to enjoy either the home he had made, or the office to which he had been appointed.

His residence was a handsome mansion on Green Hill, which, during his only too brief occupancy of it, was the seat of a generous and a refined hospitality. He had given a dinner party, at which were assembled a number

of prominent men, and, feeling indisposed during the entertainment, retired for a time in the hope of recovering sufficiently to play again the agreeable host at the head of his table.

He had withdrawn alone, not wishing his personal ailments to interfere with the enjoyment of any of his guests; but his prolonged absence exciting anxiety, search was made for him, and he was found in a distant apartment, struck down with apoplexy, and already breathing his last.

Family tradition states, as already mentioned, that Washington was influenced by his advice in selecting the location of the Mint in Philadelphia, and by inference in leaving it there when the seat of the Federal Government was removed to Washington, a decision in which the successful raid on that city by the British in the war of 1812 fully justified the wisdom of the first Assayer, whose reasoning at that time in reference to Washington is equally applicable to New York, which at the present moment is absolutely defenceless.

The commission to Mr. Cox occupies a post of honor in Mr. Jones's study at his residence, West Philadelphia. It is handsomely framed, and the parchment, with Washington's autograph, is in excellent preservation, the yellowness of age but slightly tinting it, and the writing being remarkably neat and legible, both in the signatures of Washington and Edmund Randolph and in the body of the instrument.

The commission, after the usual official opening, goes on to state that "reposing especial trust and confidence in the skill and integrity of Albion Cox, I now, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, do appoint him Assayer for the Mint of the United States, and do authorize and empower him to exercise the duties of that office according to law, and to have and to hold the said office, with all the rights and emoluments thereunto legally appertaining."

EXHUMATIONS.

DURING some recent excavations near Pompeii, thirty human skeletons were found. One of them, which was lying at full length, grasped to its breast a purse, in which were a gold coin of Vespasian, six silver and ten bronze coins, ear-drops, pearls and engraved precious stones. Near the other skeletons were coins of gold and silver, belonging to the reigns of Galba, Tiberius, Nero and Domitian. Gold bracelets, ear-drops, pearls and precious stones were found with them.

The Government of Malta have issued a memoir of the recent discoveries at Notabile. The objects found consist of a suite of five large floors of mosaic pavements; three mosaic pictures imbedded in matrices of stone; the remains of three white Carrara marble statues — one of Greek origin, representing a male figure covered with the Roman military cloak, the third representing a female wearing much the same garment as the Ceres Julia Augusta found at Gozo; fragments of Latin inscriptions on white marble slabs; several brass coins, mostly effaced, only four being legible, namely, of Gordian, A. D. 238-243; of Aurelian, A. D. 270-274; of Constantine, A. D. 337-360; and of Constantine Junior, A. D. 337; several articles of toilet and domestic use, such as large bodkins of ivory, pieces of wind instruments, and the like.

CANADIAN NUMISMATICS.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

[Continued from Vol. XVI, p. 61.]

CCLXXI. *Obv.* A helmeted head of Minerva to the right.*Rev.* COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION ONTARIO A wreath of maple leaves.
Size 45 m. R. 6.

On the space enclosed by the wreath was engraved the recipient's name and the year. Impressions in gold, silver, and bronze were awarded to the three highest students respectively, at the Normal Schools in Toronto and Ottawa. The first medals were given towards the close of 1873. In 1876 they were discontinued on account of a disturbance which arose from the fact that some of the students became possessed of the examination papers previous to the day of examination.

CCLXXII. *Obv.* Same as the last.*Rev.* EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ONTARIO Wreath as the last. Size 45 m.
R 6.

The dies of the previous medal had lain unused with the London agents of the Ontario Educational Department until last year, when the Minister of Education, during a visit to England, had them placed in the hands of Mr. Dove to be altered as above. The medals are to be awarded at the examinations in the different schools of the arts, and similar institutions throughout the Province. The name of the medallist who first engraved the dies is unknown to me.

CCLXXIII. *Obv.* ΜΗ ΑΗΓΟΙ to the left, and ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΤΣΑ to the right of Victory, who is erect and facing the left; she holds in her extended right hand a wreath of laurel, while in her left is a palm branch; below is B. WYON SC.*Rev.* VNIVERSITAS TORONTONENSIS A wreath of ivy. Size 51 m. R 4.

This medal was struck in 1846, and was awarded annually in gold and silver to the students making the highest stand at the closing examinations of their course. In 1862 it was discontinued on account of the cost of such a large medal, and that next described was used in its place.

CCLXXIV. *Obv.* Similar to the last.*Rev.* Plain. Size 34 m. R 4.

Issued in 1862 in place of the larger medal discontinued. The name of the recipient, year, subject, and of the College are engraved on the plain reverse. A number of colleges in Ontario issue medals with engraved inscriptions on both sides, not having sufficient spare funds to defray the cost of dies.

CCLXXV. *Obv.* PORRO ALTIORA PETENDA *Ex.* R. S. J A hawk to the right flying upwards. To the right, under the groundwork, B. WYON*Rev.* A wreath of ivy. Size 35 m. R 5.

Presented by R. S. Jamieson, whose initials it bears, in 1846, to be awarded annually in gold. The granting of this medal was discontinued on the death of Mr. Jamieson some years ago. The University of Toronto is sustained by the government of Ontario. It is simply an examining body, with a number of affiliated colleges under its wing. I am not certain whether these medals were awarded by the University or by the University College.

CCLXXVI. *Obv.* MORBORVM CAVSAS DOCEBO on a garter enclosing a crest, which consists of a bare arm grasping a serpent.*Rev.* VNIVERSITAS TORONTONENSIS. Inscription in field, PROPTER MEDICINAM | FELICITER EXCVLTAM | E DONO | R. N. STARR M. D. Size 34 m. R 5.

Dr. Starr in his will devised a sum of money to the University to found the above gold medal. This has been annually awarded since 1862 to the highest student passing the final examination in medicine.

CCLXXVII. *Obv.* LAW SOCIETY *Ex.* ONTARIO A column, surmounted by a beaver to the left, around which is entwined a ribbon, inscribed in incused letters, MAGNA CHARTA ANGLLÆ. To the left of the column is the figure of Hercules, draped in the lion-skin, with his right hand resting on his club; and on the right is Justice with her left hand resting on a sword, while with her right she holds a pair of scales; under the groundwork to the right, J. S. & A. B. WYON

Rev. IN · LEGIBUS · PRÆSTANTI ☉ Size 34 m. R 5.

In Ontario, law students who have not received a university degree, have to pass through a course of five years' study, and go before the Examining Board of the Law Society for examination semi-annually. This medal is given annually in gold, silver, and bronze at the final examinations. It was first given in 1881. The design is artistic and very appropriate, representing the *Magna Charta* as the foundation of English law, surmounted by a beaver, the Canadian emblem, and supported by Strength and Justice.

CCLXXVIII. *Obv.* UNIVERSITAS VICTORIÆ COLLEGIUM FUNDATA A. D. 1841. Diademed head of Victoria to the right. On the neck, F. B. SMITH F.

Rev. PRAEMIUM A CELSISSIMO ALBERTO EDUARDO PRINCIPE WALLIÆ INSTITUTUM A. D. 1860. A wreath of maple leaves with the Prince of Wales feathers and the motto ICH DIEN at top. Size 45 m. R 5.

Victoria College, Cobourg, was founded in 1841 by the Wesleyan Methodists as a Theological Training School. Not long after its establishment, classes in the arts were added to the Theological Department, when it was erected into a University. The grant of funds usually made by the government to higher institutions of learning was claimed for it, but this claim was resisted by those who had just gained the victory over the clergy reserve grants, on the ground that this college was a sectarian institution. The controversy waged both in Parliament and through the press, was fierce and long continued, until the application was finally rejected. This settled the matter, and in Ontario at least, no further state aid has been granted to sectarian institutions. This medal is one of a number founded by the Prince of Wales during his visit to Canada in 1860. The dies are by F. B. Smith of New York. It is the most artistic medal struck in that city for any Canadian object.

CCLXXIX. *Obv.* * QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY * KINGSTON. CANADA University arms, consisting of a shield bearing a St. Andrew's cross, with an open book on the centre of it. In the angle to the left is a rose; in that at the top a coniferous tree; in that to the right a shamrock, and in that below a thistle; round the border, enclosing the shield, are eight small crowns; below is a ribbon inscribed SAPIENTIA ET DOCTRINA STABILITAS Between the shield and ribbon, J. S. & A. B. WYON

Rev. A wreath of laurel. Size 41 m. R 5.

Queen's College was founded by the Presbyterian body, and has been sustained and endowed by collections through the churches. It was incorporated and made a University in 1841. A number of friends of the institution contributed sums of money to be devoted to the purchase of gold medals to be given for competition in the different classes; dies were therefore ordered in 1877 from the Messrs. Wyon, from which these medals have been struck.

CCLXXX. *Obv.* WILLIAM DUMMER POWELL AND ANNE MURRAY *Ex.* INTERMARRIED | 3RD OCTOBER | 1775. Two hands clasped, holding a torch over a square altar similar to CLXXXII.

Rev. TO | CELEBRATE | THE FIFTIETH | ANNIVERSARY | UPPER CANADA | 3RD
OCTOBER | 1825. within a wreath of true-lovers' knots. Size 39 m. R 6.

The design is the same as CLXXXII, the only difference being in the names, place, and date. The dies were undoubtedly prepared by the same engraver in Birmingham, as the same punches seem to have been used in sinking the device. Mr. Powell was for a number of years before his death Chief Justice of Upper Canada. He was a regular patriarch; his descendants are still numerous, and are scattered over the United States and Canada. Some sixty of these medals were struck for distribution among the relatives at the golden wedding. I have placed this medal as of the highest degree of rarity, although it seems to have appeared in sales rather frequently. Two of them were sold at different times in Philadelphia, the later of which was at the second Mickley Sale and brought \$12.50. Two were shown at one of the meetings of the American Numismatic and Archæological Society of New York. Major Nichols of Springfield, Mass., has two in his collection, Mr. Frossard of Irvington, N.Y., has one for sale, and I believe there is (or there was at least) one in the cabinet of a collector in Montreal. Having never seen the medal, I am indebted to Major Nichols for a rubbing, which has enabled me to describe it accurately, and to Mr. Frossard, who sent me further valuable information.

CCLXXXI. *Obv.* Arms of the City of London, Ontario, consisting of a shield divided by a chevron. In the upper compartment are two sheaves of wheat, and in the lower a beaver to the left, beside a stream; trees in the distance. Crest, a locomotive and tender to the right. Supporters, a stag to the right, and a bear to the left. Motto, LABORE ET PERSEVERANTIA; under the shield A. S. M & C^o.

Rev. Plain. Size 42 m. R 6.

The die for this medal was prepared in Buffalo for Messrs. A. S. Murray & Co., who are the leading jewellers of London, Ont. The reverse is left blank for the name of the institution granting the medal, and the object for which it was given. The one from which I take this description is inscribed "Western Fair London Ont. 1879 Andw. McCormick Esq Pres."

CCLXXXII. *Obv.* IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND + between two beaded ovals: within the oval, S^T ANDREW'S | CHURCH, | TORONTO. | 1830 scroll work in the corners.

Rev. THIS DO | IN | REMEMBRANCE | OF ME. | I. COR. XI. 24. scroll ornamentations in corners; shape rectangular, with corners truncated. Size 19 by 27. R 6.

There are in Toronto two St. Andrew's churches, called respectively the old and new St. Andrew's; the one having separated from the other when the Free Church separated from the Church of Scotland. The token in question was issued by the latter. There may be tokens issued by some of the other churches, but I have no knowledge of the existence of such.

[To be continued.]

R. W. M^CLACHLAN.

AN ANCIENT JAR OF COINS.

REV. S. S. LEWIS, M. A., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, England, has recently announced the discovery in that vicinity of a crock containing five hundred billion pieces (apparently denarii), of *Carausius*, *Tetricus*, and *Victorinus*. It was struck by the ploughshare, while ploughing for barley in Middle Fen, Willingham, on land owned by Jesus College, Cambridge.

AN OLD PRINTER'S MEDAL.

Editors of the Journal of Numismatics :

My attention was lately called to an engraving of a very early Printer's Medal, which has some curious points of resemblance to Masonic Medals; and therefore I have thought a brief description of it would not be uninteresting to your readers. At first sight it would impress one strongly with its Masonic character, both in the device of the obverse, and in the legend of the reverse; but it is believed by all who have made any study of the numismatics of Freemasonry, that there were no Medals struck by the fraternity earlier than the eighteenth century, (unless the leaden pieces of the Swiss Traveling Freemasons be included, and these were casts,) while this one belongs to the first year of the seventeenth.

The description of the piece is as follows:—Obverse. On the right of the field is an unfinished building; on its top is a crane or derrick, to which is suspended a stone; at the left stands a "builder"; his left arm extended holds a square, and his right rests upon his hip: before him on the ground is a large square, with an ashlar near it, and behind him on the left is an object which might be taken for an altar, but is possibly an inkstand and pen, out of all proportion to the other figures. A circle of dots surrounds the field, outside of which is the legend ∴ GEORG. BAWMAN. TYPOGRAPHVS. M. D. C. I Reverse. A beaded circle, divided into quarters by an ornament, surrounds the inscription in five lines, AVDI · VI · | DE ET TACE | SI · VIS · VI · | VERE · IN | PACE · (That is, Listen, see, and keep silence, if you wish to live in peace.) This motto, the first part of it at least, is familiar to Masons as that borne upon the arms of the United Grand Lodge of England, and some other bodies. Baumann was an old printer of Breslau, Germany, (the leading city of Silesia,) and this jeton is supposed to have been struck in that place. Its size is 18 by the American scale, and the medal is said to be very rare. An engraving of the piece, both obverse and reverse, is given by William Blades, in his excellent work on "Printers' Medals and Jettons," but he has nothing to say either of Baumann or of the occasion for which this was struck. I presume the explanation of the device is to be found in the word Baumann, which may be taken to be a compound of the two German words Bau, (*a building*,) and mann, (*man*,) *i. e.*, a *builder*; the piece would then bear a sort of rebus, like those of many early printers, which will readily suggest themselves.

W. T. R. MARVIN.

PROPOSED NEW COINS.

THE Director of the United States Mint in Philadelphia has projected and will submit to the consideration of the present Congress a plan for supplanting all former issues of the minor coinage by a new and uniform series. He declares that there has been a great deal too much ill-considered legislation on the subject of the nation's small coins. For instance, the present five-cent piece contains twenty-seven grains more than its due proportion of metal as compared with the three-cent coin (authorized in 1865), although the alloy is the same. All the small coins should have a uniformity of alloy, he contends,

the devices should be uniform in character, and there should be due proportion in weight between the various pieces. The plan further recommends that the alloy be seventy-five per cent copper and twenty-five per cent nickel — this being the best alloy, because it does not oxidize, retains its color, is clean and without odor. It can be readily worked and is difficult to counterfeit. He would have the five-cent piece weigh five grammes, the three-cent piece three grammes, and the one-cent piece one and one-half grammes, which is as small a bulk of metal as can be conveniently operated upon in coinage. He would have on the above coins a classical head of Liberty, surrounded by the words "United States of America," and the date below. On the reverse a wreath composed of wheat, corn and cotton — products of the country — surrounding the Roman V., III., I., on the five, three, and one-cent piece respectively. The sizes of the coins would be: For the five-cent piece, twenty-two millimetres in diameter, three-cent piece nineteen, and the one-cent piece sixteen millimetres. This would make the five-cent piece four millimetres smaller than the quarter dollar, from which it would be easily distinguished — first, in the day time, by the color, by the device, which is absolutely different on the obverse and reverse, and at night by the plain edge, while the quarter dollar has a "reeded" or "milled" edge, as it is improperly called. The three-cent piece, which is at present exactly the size of the silver dime, would be two millimetres larger, with the same marks of difference as noted between the five-cent piece and the quarter.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON NUMISMATICS AND MINTAGE.

It may be reasonably doubted whether any other simple object centres within and around it so much both of practical and sentimental interest as a coin or token. Here is the concentrated and peculiar product of many arts and sciences, and one which subserves purposes nobler and more refined than its own legitimate "excuse for being." Money may be considered as the sun of our social existence; but around and without the "orb of each particular" coin is a corona — the region of intellectual growth and poetic bloom. The numismatic student cannot discover this too early. Here is a haunt for the archæologist, a full shelf for the historian, an Olympus for the mythologist, a gallery for the artist, legendary voices for the poet, and an altar for the theologian. He who looks not over and beyond the "variety" show-case of the collector, or who reads not between the lines of the dealer's catalogue, has a small conception of the real value — the humanizing influences in numismatic science.

But it was my intention to suggest that there are chapters of the more practical sort lying only half-read, as yet, between the obverse and reverse of a coin. The connection between the mint-scientist (we have no *ology* for that yet) and the numismatologist is, of necessity, very intimate. The Mint fabricates that of which the numismatist is, abstractly, the true custodian and the sincerest patron, — he being the very embodiment of "Gresham's Law," recognizing that bad money only is fit to circulate, good money only fit to keep. He alone cares for *money*. Of what, then, is this thing, this money made? This looks through the assayer's door; and though only a spectator, the numismatist may profitably extend his knowledge and refine his language to niceties approaching those of the balance and the metric notation. Perhaps he does not know that the fineness of all gold coin is tried by weights, of which the smallest is less than the half-millionth of an ounce; nor that an error by only a little more than this would make the coin as veritably illegal as a brass eagle or a leaden quarter. The law allows a *Remedy or Tolerance* of one thousandth deviation from the standard, in gold, and three thousandths in silver. Our aim is not simply to be within the remedy, but so far as

possible directly at the standard. In silver, a curious condition arises. There is a segregation by which the inside of the ingot is always finer, the outside baser. So the remedy is wider here. I have seen a silver dollar two-thirds legal, one-third illegal, the whole averaging within the tolerance; of course this is rare. But what a plum for the "Variety" men if they could only see it! And this suggests that in proportion as the fineness is beyond the reach of popular ken, defies the store balance and the cashier's touch, it is by so much the more gravely important and fraught with responsibility for him upon whom its degree of accuracy rests. Looseness or fraud on the assayer's part, causing a slight divergence from the standard, while it would affect none of our ordinary tests or perceptions, would, if discovered, throw doubt upon a whole year's coinage, and the Government be put in the position of making and passing its own counterfeits of true weight and genuine die.

Again, we hear of coins being gold, silver, bronze or billon. It might be a fair question what constitutes gold and silver. We have seen "gold" jewelry from the jeweler's street windows, in which the gold can be considered only as a slight impurity in the brass. But we need not pause here to argue what ought to constitute a name. Ideas are vague enough on plainer themes. We are often asked how many carats is "*fine*," and we have even been invited to give the value of a *square* inch of gold (by return mail).

We express fineness in thousandths—the standard being 900 parts in a thousand. This system was introduced at the Mint in 1837, with a decimal notation. Previously, the cumbrous carat system (still much in vogue in England) was employed. Under this plan, "twenty-four carats" stands for purity; then the carat is divided into four carat grains, and the grain into eighths; so that the lowest expression of fineness instead of being $\frac{1000}{1000}$ as we now have it, was only $\frac{1}{8}$. The United States standard prior to 1834 was twenty-two carats, and assays were reported by their *betterness* or *worseness* (by so many carats and grains) than the standard. Silver notation was based upon the assay pound of twelve ounces, representing purity; these ounces were divided into pennyweights and grains. The lowest expression of fineness, then, was the half-pennyweight or twelve grains of the pound, *i. e.*, $\frac{1}{5760}$ or $\frac{1}{480}$.

Roman coins were first made of bronze. In the year of Rome 487 (B. C. 266) silver was introduced, and gold came sixty years later. The gold coin ran as high as 990 to 995 thousandths fine—with few exceptions as low as 600 fine. The silver was from 950 to 985 until after Augustus. Afterward there was a regular debasement. "In the coinage of Nero we find the quality of 82 per cent; from Vespasian to Hadrian it ranges from 78 to 85. The *very* base silver begins with Septimus Severus, about A. D. 200; and in the time of Elagabalus, and Philip, (say half a century farther on,) the coins contained not more than 40 to 45 per cent of silver; the alloy being copper, with a portion of tin, to preserve the color. In some cases, it would seem as if the emperors of those troubled times resorted to the expedient of issuing copper with a mere plating of silver. But a salutary and permanent reform is to be dated from the reign of Diocletian at the close of the third century. Silver of a good quality, say 91 to 96 per cent fine, was used from that time, down through all the decline of the empire."*

The assayer has one consolation in his work,—vandalism cannot punch holes in the standard fineness. Judging from the thousands of ounces of mutilated silver now pouring into our melting pots, the standard weight is falling an easy prey to this most beggarly business. It is a reflection upon a token coinage, that a cent's worth of silver punched out of a dollar, reduces its value not by the cent's worth only but by this much, *plus* the difference between the original intrinsic and legal values. In other words, one from one hundred, leaves not ninety-nine, but eighty-six.

I suppose the nearest approach to this kind of thieving, applied to fineness, is to be found in that artistic operation of sawing out the interior, edgewise, and filling with platinum. Here the genuine piece might be considered as debased; yet this is refined and respectable compared with the grossness and impudence of the coin punchers. But fraud by debasement, in the true sense, while nearly impossible after the coin is made,

* Pledges of History, by W. E. DuBois.

has been practiced not only by Mint authorities, in past times, but by the whispered command of the sovereign himself. I quote an interesting instance.* "Philip of Valois, who reigned from 1328 to 1350, in his last year ordered a coinage of *double-tournois* at the reduced and very base proportion of 185 thousandths fine. In his mandate to the officers of the Mint, this precautionary passage occurs: 'On the oath which you have made to the King, keep the thing as secret as possible. Take care that the workmen shall neither know nor suspect anything of it; for if it transpires through your means, you shall be punished in such a manner as will be an example to all others.' His successor, John II., in the very next year, issued a coinage of silver *blancs*, which were to be 375, instead of 500 thousandths fine. His direction ran thus: 'Keep the thing secret; and if any one ask what is the alloy of the *blancs*, *pretend* that they are of six deniers.' At the same time the gold *royals* were secretly reduced from 20 to 18 carats, with this injunction: 'Cause all the former *royals* to be remelted; and tell the melters (lest they might suspect all was not right) that the chief melter had neglected to alloy them previously, and therefore it was necessary to remelt.'" While the transparency of this ruse was amusing, it only illustrates the more forcibly the character of assayers' trust and charge. Before this meets the reader's eye, our "Annual Assay," or trial of the pyx,† will have been made by a learned commission, and have proven (as we doubt not) the accuracy of the last year's mintage.

As a closing paragraph, I may communicate the intelligence just received, that the London Mint is to close February 1, for one year, to admit of alterations, extensions, and the introduction of new machinery. This is a step in the right direction, and is not taken too soon.

PATTERSON DUBOIS.

THE FRENCH SOCIETY OF INSCRIPTIONS AND MEDALS.

THE famous combination of learned societies known as the Institute de France is at present established in an ancient church belonging to the Collège Mazarin, on the Quai de la Monnaie. The academicians in 1683 qualified their society as L'Académie des Inscriptions et des Médailles. When the membership was enlarged, and in July, 1701, it was organized in a stable manner, by a law which gave it the name of L'Académie Royale des Inscriptions et des Médailles, the number of academicians was fixed at forty—ten honorary members, ten pensioners, ten associates and ten pupils.

An apartment in the Louvre was fitted up for its meetings, and in 1713 letters-patent were granted, confirming its laws and privileges. Three years later, a Council of State gave it the more elevated title of L'Académie Royale des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres.

THE ORIGIN OF L. S. D.

AT the London Institution a paper was read by Mr. John Evans, on "L. S. D., or the Origin of Pounds, Shillings and Pence." In treating of the development of the three principal English coins, the lecturer proceeded to trace the history of the penny downward, and exhibited an interesting specimen of Offa's (king of Mercia, A. D. 757-796) coinage, that monarch being probably the originator of the penny coin. The earliest English piece with a date is one supposed to be struck for Perkin Warbeck in 1494. From the time of Edward I. the penny silver coinage underwent a steady progress of degradation, until in 1797 (1672?) copper pennies, weighing one ounce avoirdupois each, were first issued by royal authority. The derivation of the name of "shilling" is doubtful, but in mediæval times the word was always Latinized as *solidus*, a Roman coin, which was originally of gold and about seventy grains in weight. Though the term was well known in Saxon times, it was only in use in accounts. Henry VII., who

*Eckfeldt and DuBois, *Manual of Gold and Silver Coins, &c.*

† For an account of this, see Vol. XIV, No. 4, *American Journal of Numismatics*.

was the first to introduce the pound in gold, also struck the first shilling in 1504. Edward VI. was the first to introduce silver crowns, half-crowns and sixpences, and he also reformed the coinage of shillings, which his father had greatly debased. In 1816 the great recoinage commenced, and by 1819 50,000,000 shillings and 30,000,000 sixpences in round numbers were struck. The pound weight of silver originally corresponded with the money pound of account, there being in it 240 pennyweights. No gold currency existed in this country until nearly two centuries after the Norman conquest, the first gold coin struck having been a gold penny, in the year 1250, which Henry III. ordered to be current for 20*d*. In 1343 another attempt to introduce a gold coinage was made, gold florins of six shillings, and half and quarter florins being then issued, but they were almost at once called in. They were succeeded by the noble, and in the reign of Edward IV. by the angel, each being originally current for 6*s*. 8*d*. In 1489 the sovereign, equivalent to 20*s*., was coined, the name being derived from the representation on the obverse of the sovereign seated. With various changes in quality and value, the sovereign, or pound, remained in currency until after the Restoration, when the piece obtained the name of guinea, from the gold of which they were made having been brought from Guinea by the African Company, and their value was enhanced to 21*s*. The present sovereign dates from July 1, 1817, when it was made, by proclamation based upon Act of Parliament, the sole standard measure of value, and legal tender for payment, without any limitation of amount.—*London Post*.

MODERN USE OF OLD COINS.

POPULAR CRAZE FOR JEWELRY MADE OF ANCIENT COINS.

WE reprint the following from a New York paper, as a matter of numismatic interest. It is doubtful if some of the values given are not considerably exaggerated, and while the destruction of some choice antique coins, and the appearance of new forgeries, is greatly to be regretted, yet we hope that one good result of this "popular craze" will be to increase popular appreciation of the beauties of ancient art as displayed on coins.

A ZEALOUS numismatist lately said it is impossible at present either in London, Paris, or New York to supply the demand for genuine antique coins in gold or silver, from the popular passion for jewelry made of old money. This passion has created an unusually brisk market for such coins, and thousands of them have been manufactured by jewellers into quaint and pretty articles. Considerable ingenuity has been displayed in working them into watch-cases, bracelets, sleeve-buttons, earrings, necklaces, scarf-pins and rings. The coins which are principally in demand for this purpose are the most artistic ones belonging to the fourth century B. C. These are Greek coins, and in gold the Stater is most frequently used, while in silver the Tetradrachm and Drachm are seen more often than any other. Some jewellers have become quite skillful in matching the ornamentation of the settings with the historical character of the coin.

This style of jewelry is expensive when genuine ancient coins are used. Some coins cost a great deal of money, as any coin collector well knows. I am acquainted with a gentleman who wears on his scarf a coin pin for which he paid six hundred dollars. The value of an ancient coin is regulated first by its rarity, and next by its degree of preservation. People very naturally attach more importance to the identity and perfect authenticity of a coin than to its beauty. Some early American coins also are very valuable and eagerly sought after.

The silver half-dime of 1802 is one of the scarcest of all American coins, and I had a somewhat singular experience with that coin when coming to this country from France. A day or two before sailing, I received from a waiter in a restaurant a handful of American coins in the way of change, and after I got on shipboard found an 1802 half-dime among them. I put it carefully away, and had not been in New York long before selling it to a coin-collector for \$176. Subsequently he disposed of it for a still larger sum.

The present fashion of making jewelry from antique coins and medals had its origin in France, where ladies of wealth take great pride in displaying necklaces and bracelets of very old and rare coins. Some of these pieces cost their owners thousands of francs. The Duchess of St. Albans, it is said, has some of the most costly jewelry of this kind extant. The Roman coin called Aureus is now especially in demand for ladies' jewelry. Greek coins from the eighth century B. C.

down to the Christian era, and Roman coins from the the third century B. C. down to the mediæval period, are used in the manufacture of jewelry, and they range in price all the way from fifty cents to \$5,000. Of course, by far the greater number of the coin ornaments made and sold in this country are of an inexpensive character. Gentlemen's scarf pins, costing \$10, \$20, or \$30, are quite popular this year, and many retail jewelers find it extremely difficult to obtain enough of them to meet the demand. During the past few months almost every ship that comes from France brings several hundred ancient coins, and yet the cry is for more. These coins come from Italy and Greece, and they are found in many different ways and different places. Excavations for new buildings have brought to light a great many, and the construction of railways, particularly in Greece, where numerous cuts have to be made, has yielded a rich harvest to the coin collector. The earth, it must be remembered, was the bank of the ancients, who frequently buried large sums of money for safe keeping. It was customary even for armies to bury their treasure, and the fact that such treasure was often left in the ground when the army burying it was repulsed or driven away, explains why many thousand ancient pieces of gold and silver are found together, sometimes by quite accidental causes. Occasionally valuable collections of Greek and Roman coins have been revealed by the uprooting of trees by the wind. It is always from the earth that the antique coins are taken, and Greece and Italy abound in patient, intelligent and industrious searchers.

No milling appears on any of the ancient silver coins. That was first begun, it is said, about the time of Edward VI. The growth of the popular craze for coin jewelry has, by increasing the demand for ancient coins, increased the number of forgers. The market is flooded with cleverly-executed imitations; the most common are made by taking a mould of each side of some antique coin, and then casting gold, silver or bronze in the mould. These forged coins are produced in every country, and sometimes a great deal of pains is taken to bury them somewhere in Greece or Italy, and have them dug again with great publicity. An old dealer in antique articles thinks there is a clique of forgers of ancient coins somewhere in New York or New Jersey, for he has seen numerous specimens of their handiwork lately. Many of the coin scarf-pins, ear-rings, bracelets, etc., are made of forged ancient coins, and are sold at high prices. Some are so admirable that none but the most skillful experts can distinguish them from the genuine; but they are generally cast, and therefore have not the weight of the genuine compressed coin. A zealous numismatist, by studying the distinctive features of antique art, can readily detect a bogus antique coin.

One of the smallest antique coins ever made is a Greek piece called the *Tartemorion*, which is about twice as big as the head of a large pin, and is worth about fifty cents. The *di-drachms*—silver coins first struck in the eighth century B. C.—are used a great deal for pins and bracelets. They cost from \$2 up to \$200. Syracuse coins are in great demand for brooches, and some of them have a market value of \$500. They derive their chief value from their remarkable rarity and beauty of design. One up-town jewelry house has disposed of nearly one hundred of these coins, mounted in different ways, within the last two or three months. The most common style of setting for ladies' jewelry is the plain gold bar or band used in making lace pins, necklaces and bracelets.

A quaint bracelet of mixed Roman coins is said to have been sold in London some time ago for the enormous price of £800 or \$4,000. It contained ten coins—five Greek and five Roman—and each coin represented a distinctive period prior to the Christian era. The largest and central piece in the bracelet was alone valued at \$2,000, it being more than 2,500 years old, and of great rarity. Amusing stories are told of economical coin fanciers who, in their anxiety to save paying a commission to experts, endeavor to pick up good bargains in out-of-the-way places—buying at first hands, as they claim. Americans travelling in Europe are frequently made the victims of the professional coin forgers and swindlers who infest the classic localities.

Our numismatic friend, Matthew A. Stickney, Esq., writes that he has been lately shown seven *Staters* of Philip and Alexander of Macedon. They were given by a prominent American banker in London to a gentleman of Salem, and were procured from the Bank of England, being part of a sum of money paid by the Sultan. They were of gold, in beautiful condition, and may have been part of the plunder of Constantinople. They are to be *strung for a bracelet*.

A somewhat similar "craze" to that described above is also prevalent among school-girls, who beg small silver pieces of their sweethearts and friends, one side of which having been smoothed, is engraved with the initials of the giver. The greater the variety in size, or mintage, the more desirable is the necklace. A somewhat similar taste has led to a call on the Mint for new ten cent pieces, to be used in making bangles, and the demand has at times exceeded the supply. We forbear to draw comparisons between our American girls and their sisters in the Orient, since the ancient philosophy has laid down the precept, *De gustibus non disputandum*.—EDS.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

Dec. 2. A monthly meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted. Mr. Crosby presented on behalf of Dr. E. Maris of Philadelphia, a copy of the work of the latter on the coins of New Jersey, for which the thanks of the Society were voted. Messrs. Green and Crosby were appointed a committee to nominate at the annual meeting a Board of Officers for 1882. The President announced the purchase from the Mint of the Stella and Goloid Patterns of three pieces of 1879. Mr. Woodward showed a number of pieces, viz: some foreign silver of very large size, headed by a quintuple crown of Brunswick, 1647, size 52, several other fine silver coins, including one of Archbishop of Salzburg, 1521, and varieties of the gold issues of Carolina, Utah and California. Mr. Marvin exhibited some rare Masonic medals belonging to Mr. E. Frossard. The Secretary showed a pair of beautiful half-dollars of 1796 and 1797. The Society adjourned at 5 P. M.

1882. *Jan. 6.* The annual meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted; he also announced a donation of Chinese coins from Mr. Holland, and from the American Numismatic and Archæological Society, of the Proceedings of its last annual meeting. The President spoke briefly of the death of Judge Putnam, long a member of this Society, and at one time Vice President. Dr. Green presented the report of the committee to nominate officers, which was accepted, and the following were elected officers for 1882:—*President*, Jeremiah Colburn; *Vice President and Curator*, Henry Davenport; *Treasurer*, Edmund F. Slafter; *Secretary*, Wm. S. Appleton. The Treasurer presented his annual report, which was accepted, and shows the Society to be in good condition financially. Mr. Holland showed a parcel of coins and medals, offered for sale for the benefit of a church at Charleston, S. C. Mr. Woodward exhibited a large marriage-medal of William of Orange and Mary, daughter of Charles I. of England, and a number of other interesting pieces, German, French, etc., with gold of some of the Caliphs. The Secretary showed a copy of the earliest printed book on Numismatics, Budæus de Asse et Partibus Eius, Venice, 1522, and said that another specimen had just been sold in London in the Sunderland Library for £91. The Society adjourned at 5.10 P. M.

WM. S. APPLETON, *Secretary*.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.

A Regular Meeting was held November 15th, 1881, Professor Anthon presiding.

The Secretary read acceptances of their election from Corresponding Member Gates P. Thruston, Nashville, Tenn.; Resident Members, E. P. Tenney, L. Waterbury, and A. E. Douglass.

Mr. Zabriskie read the following obituary notices, which were ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

"Since our last meeting we are called upon to note the death of three members, being one each from the ranks of Honorary, Life and Corresponding Members. It would be impossible, within the space of this notice, of necessity brief, to fittingly record the life of the late WILLIAM ERVING DuBois, Assayer of the Mint, and an Honorary Member of this Society. Born in Doylestown, Pa., Dec. 15th, 1810, Mr. DuBois early developed literary taste; although admitted to the bar at the age of 22, an infirmity of the voice compelled him to relinquish that profession. In 1833, he was appointed Directors' Clerk at the Mint, and in 1836, was made Assistant Assayer, in which position he remained until 1872, when, upon the death of Mr. Eckfeldt, Chief Assayer, he was appointed to the vacancy. He died July 14, 1881, after nearly forty-eight years' service in the Mint. Numismatic literature is indebted to Mr. DuBois for several volumes well known and highly valued, and his pen not infrequently contributed to the pages of the *American Journal of Numismatics*, as well as other periodicals. It is earnestly to be hoped, though it is hardly to be expected, that the Mint of the United States may always count among its employees at least one possessed of the noble character and superior attainments of the late Mr. DuBois. Amid the many changes which occurred in the institution to which he was so long attached, he pursued the

secluded path of usefulness which had been marked out for him partly by circumstances, partly by his own temperament, ever setting a high example to those around him and imparting in clear and healthy tones his abundant knowledge and wisdom. Not a few persons might be found, who without having habitually enjoyed his society, perhaps without ever having met him, have yet cherished for him a highly prized friendship, through taking part in that epistolary correspondence in which he so excelled. As a well-earned testimony to the high character of our late Honorary Member we unite as a body in the general appreciation of his merit and regret for his loss.

The Rev. EDWIN A. DALRYMPLE, S. T. D., a Life Member of this Society, died at his residence in Baltimore, on October 30th, aged 63 years. Dr. Dalrymple was a prominent Episcopal clergyman of the Diocese of Maryland, and for twenty years had been the Secretary of its Convention. At the time of his death he was President of the recently organized Baltimore Numismatic and Archæological Society, Corresponding Secretary of the Maryland Historical Society, President of the School of Letters of Maryland, etc. His library was the most extensive and valuable private collection in the State.

BENJAMIN DASILVA, of New Orleans, La., a Corresponding Member of this Society, died in that city, Aug. 11th, after a long and painful illness, aged 64; born at Amsterdam, Holland, he came to New Orleans in 1848, and made himself very popular, being connected with numerous organizations and movements; in 1859 he became a member of the Howard Association, rendering good service in time of need.

Mr. Wright, Curator, reports receiving donations of three Garfield Medalets in gilt, copper and tin, also one Napoleon Medalet. The Secretary read a letter from the Superintendent of the Mint, offering our Society a set of the Goloid and Metric Coins at their intrinsic value. The Treasurer was requested to order the same. Prof. Anthon exhibited a silver portrait medal of Philip Melanchthon at the age of 47, date 1543; reverse, a text from Psalm 36. Also an impression in silver of a Medal struck by the State of Virginia, 1858, in honor of Captain Wm. Lewis Herndon, and presented to his widow.

Mr. Oliver exhibited recent additions to his collection of War Medals, among which was one of Alexander of Russia, for the capture of Paris, 1814; one of Spain for the campaign of Africa, 1860, four French, three Pius IX, six of Great Britain, and the Iron Cross of Schleswig Holstein. Adjourned.

A Special Meeting of the Society was held February 28th, 1882, at the New York University Building. In the absence of Prof. Anthon, Vice President D. Parish, Jr., presided. The Executive Committee reported their regret at the postponement of the Regular Meeting, which should have been held in January, as the Society was without a room at that time; they have however secured the present room which was likely to be permanent, and was in every way suitable. Propositions for membership having been approved, the election of the following members took place:—Henry Booth, for Life Membership, E. S. Renwick, for Resident Membership, and Edward Frossard, as Corresponding Member.

Dr. C. E. West read an interesting paper on the history of coinage, describing the Lydian, the Grecian, and the Roman monetary systems.

On motion of Mr. Hewett, a resolution was passed unanimously thanking Dr. West, and requesting him to favor us with a copy of the same for our archives.

The Society was informed that Commander Gorrington had kindly offered a selection from his cabinets, to form a loan exhibition in the Rooms of the Society. The Chairman appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Feuadent, Hewett, and DeMorgan, to make the selection. On motion adjourned.

WM. POILLON, *Secretary.*

NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting was held 1st January, 1882, President Price in the chair, and a very large number of members being present.

Dr. Brinton delivered an address on "The Books of Chilán Balán, the Sacred and Historic Records of the Mayas of Yucatan." These are a series of manuscripts, written by the native Indians of that country, and contain a great deal that is interesting to the antiquary, ethnologist, and linguist. They are in the Maya language, and have never

been published, nor even translated into any European tongue. Their contents relate to the ancient history of the Yucatan Indians before the discovery of America, the methods they adopted in computing time, their hieroglyphics and mythology, their system of numeration, the prophecies of their priests, their medical treatment of disease, descriptions of their first intercourse with the whites, and other such matters. The name Chilán Balán is the title of the priest who was the official augur in the ancient religion, and was appointed to declare the character of the year or epoch when it began. Some of these books are partly written in the sacred hieroglyphic characters of the ancient Mayas. The speaker stated that he had compared these hieroglyphics with those found in some Maya manuscripts written long before the Conquest, and that they were clearly identical, though with variations in form. Dr. Brinton added that he had in his possession copies made in fac-simile of several of these sacred books, and that no other copies, he believed, were to be found in the United States, and even in Yucatan they are very rare.

Mr. Edwin A. Barber exhibited a large and interesting series of photographs of Peruvian pottery. Dr. Brinton made a further communication in reference to the chromo-photographic printing of the Dresden codex. Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., offered the following preamble and resolution:—

Whereas, The 1st day of January, A. D. 1883, will be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of our society; therefore be it

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to consider and report to the society the best manner of celebrating this auspicious event.

The consideration of these resolutions was postponed till the next meeting. After which the Society adjourned.

NUMISMATIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE.

The officers for the ensuing year are the following named gentlemen:—*President*, O. H. Berg; *Vice-President*, G. W. Massamore, M.D.; *Secretary*, Prof. Chapman Maupin; *Treasurer and Curator*, Lennox Birkhead.

COIN SALES.

H. P. SMITH'S SALE.

JANUARY 6, 1882, Messrs. Bangs & Co. of New York, sold a small collection of Coins and Medals, including ancient bronze, foreign and American gold and silver, at their salesrooms. The Catalogue, by Mr. H. P. Smith, contained 24 pages and 661 lots. The prices obtained were quite moderate. A Half dollar of 1815, struck over an earlier date, brought \$8.25, and two Quarters of 1853, without arrows, 5.70 and 6.50. Dollars of 1854, 8.05 and 6.95; 1855, 6.80 and 7.75; one of 1836, 7.55. We notice nothing else of special interest.

WOODWARD'S FORTY-FOURTH SALE.

THE Elmira Collection, the property of a gentleman in Western New York, together with a small collection belonging to Mr. A. C. Woodward, of Southbridge, Mass., was sold in Boston by Messrs. Sullivan Bros. & Libbie, Jan. 23, 24. The Elmira Collection proper comprised the usual line of American coins, but lacked most of the rare pieces, and the coins, being in ordinary condition, sold for small prices, but at the same time brought all they were worth. The attendance at the sale was good, and all desirable coins brought full prices. 1815 Half Dollar, nearly fine, \$6.80; 1852, do. fine, 4.70. A rare Peace Medal of George II., 1757, 9.85. A good assortment of fractional currency sold well. 1836 Dollar, 10; 1802, Half Dollar, 10.25; 1838, do. pattern, 6.38; Proof sets, 1871 to 1881, the series not complete, 4.50 to 6.50, an average of perhaps 5.50 each; 1797 Half Dime, 8.25; 1796 Cent, of the Nichols lot, 20; 1797, do. 10; 1799 do. 15.05. About 70 lots of Greek and Roman coins, mostly in excellent condition, sold for very good prices. The feature of the sale, however, which excited more interest than any other, was a quantity of Stone Relics from America and Europe. We quote only a few pieces. Grooved Axe, Penn. 5; another, defective, 2. The Celts, Gouges, and narrow Chisels from Europe brought from 85 cents upwards, the average price being for large and small 1.80. One Celt of exceptional size and beauty brought the large sum of \$14. \$4 and upwards was not an uncommon price; all were of true flints with a single exception. Eight perforated Hammers and Battle Axes from Denmark averaged 5.73 each; many of the best flint instruments were purchased by Western collectors. On the whole the sale was eminently successful and suggests very forcibly to dealers the advantages of Boston as a market for coins at auction.

STAEBLEIN COLLECTION.

JANUARY 26 and 27, Messrs. Bangs & Co. sold the collection of Mr. Theodore Staeblein, of Baltimore, which included the usual variety of coins and medals, but especially rich in Washington pieces (nearly 300) and rare early foreign crowns, among the latter the Austrian Sigismund of 1486, said to be the earliest known crown bearing a date, which sold for \$15.25. The Catalogue, 48 pages and 1311 lots, was prepared by Mr. J. W. Haseltine, of Philadelphia. The Washington "Independence" Medal, by Wright, bronze, v. f. and r. 18.50; Perkins Funeral Medal, so-called, the dies of which Mr. Haseltine says were cut by Nicholas Pierce, tin, size 36, brought 10.25; a unique Washington, unknown to Appleton, and perhaps the original design of C. C. Wright's Medal, silver, size 32, and v. f. 21.25; Funeral Medal, "He is in glory," etc., rev. inscription in two "centrifugal" (?) lines, silver, good and r. 2.85; the "Metropolitan Carnival," Washington, cast, white metal, size 47, 6.20; a Masonic of Maximilian Julius, 1785, (Marvin 385) the first we have seen offered, 3.20; Brilliant proof Dollar of 1858, 48.50. The Crowns, of which there was a great variety, brought very good prices, and the sale as a whole must have been quite satisfactory.

SAMPSON'S SALE.

FEBRUARY 16 and 17, Messrs. Bangs & Co. sold "the collection of a private gentleman,"—which contained some valuable and interesting Coins and Medals, of gold, silver and copper,—almost entirely choice American pieces. The Catalogue, prepared by Mr. H. G. Sampson, was the handsomest he has yet issued, and contained 52 pages and 1222 lots. Among the more valuable pieces were the following:—*Dollars*.—1794, v. f. 102; '95, 12.50; 1836, flying eagle, Gobrecht on base, pr. 11.25; another, without stars, br. pr. 47.50; do. Gobrecht on field, 42; '38, Liberty seated, '52; '39, do. 39; '51, pr. 46.50; '52, pr. 51; '38, do. 50. *Half Dollars*.—'94, 10.60; '96, fillet head, fifteen stars, 105; do. sixteen stars, 75; another, '57; '97, 65; 1801 and 1802, 12 each; '15, v. f. 26.50; '52, v. f. 12. *Quarters*.—1815, unc. 6.90; '53, no arrows, 11.75. *Dimes*.—1802, v. f. 20; '22, 6.30; '46, v. f. 6.25. *Half Dimes*.—1794, 7.60; '96, 6.60; '97, thirteen stars, 8.20; do. fifteen stars, 8.50. *Proof Set*.—1857, 22. *Gold*.—Eagle, 1795, unc. 26.50; 1803, v. f. 11.85. *Half Eagle*, 1799, 7.60; 1810, 7; '18, 7.70; California do. '49, N. G. and N. 7.65. *Cents*.—1793, chain, 7.10; do. without dot, 14; do. wreath, 17.50; do. broken die, 19.50; do. (Fros. 7, 2d rev.) 13; do. (F. 9.) 25; do. Liberty cap, cracked die, 16.75; three varying Cents of '94, brought 10.25, 11, and 17.75; '95, thick pl. lettered edge, 28; two do. thin pl. 15.70 and 16.85; '96, Liberty cap, 24; '97, close date, 10.25; '98, large date, 10.50; '99, 25.15; 1805, v. f. 16.50; 1811, unc. 30; '21, deep milling, pr. 45; '46, large date, pr. 10. *Half Cents*.—1795, thin pl. unc. 13; 1831, br. pr. 15.50; '36, do. 16.50; '41, do. 14; '42, do. 9.25; '52, do. 13. Set of coinage for 1868, gold and silver, 15 pieces, 102. Six Trade Dollar patterns, 1873, pr. 30.

GREGORY COLLECTION.

THE Collection of Mr. T. B. Gregory of Foxburg, Pa., and some others, were sold together by Bangs & Co., February 23 and 24. The Catalogue, 46 pages, embraced 1382 lots, and was prepared by Mr. Haseltine. Like most of his Catalogues, it was well arranged, and the pieces described with great fairness, but the typography showed room for improvement, and was very careless. A Connecticut Cent, 1785, (Crosby 3, F.) brought \$5.60, and several others quite high prices. Dollars, 2 of 1798, 7.25 and 8.20; '52, v. f. 41; '57, br. pr. 11; do. 1878, Morgan's original design, 17; Half dollar of 1815, v. f. 10.55; Gloriam Regni, fair, 10.50; a set of ten Virginia Half-pennies, all different, 11.25. The so-called Copenhagen Medal, by Offenheim, silver, size 24, and v. f. 9; Dime of 1804, 15.10. Cent, chain, 1793, (Fros. No. 1.) 9.60; do. wreath, (Fros. 5.) 6.15 and 7.80; Massachusetts Pine tree Note, 1776, for eight-pence, unc. 4.80. Goloid Dollar, 1878, 9.80.

FROSSARD'S NINETEENTH SALE.

FEBRUARY 28th Mr. Frossard held his Nineteenth Sale at Bangs & Co.'s New York. In the Catalogue—42 pages and 743 lots—were a large assortment of United States and foreign coins and Medals, Colonial, Medieval coins, Masonics, the Low collection of tokens, one of the largest which has recently been offered, but which went at rather low prices, and some valuable numismatic works. A small edition of this Catalogue was issued, with two fine heliotype plates. One of the most interesting and valuable pieces was the rare Washington, with edge inscription, "An asylum for the oppressed," etc., (Appleton 38,) and of which Crosby says only two are known; this was in very fine, nearly proof condition, and brought \$24; a fine Lafayette, "Companion of Washington," silver, size 19, and very rare, 4; Half dollar of 1796, sixteen stars, fair, 23.50; another, 1797, v. g. 46.50; a Masonic Medal of the Grand Lodge of Bavaria, (Marvin 353,) silver, nearly proof, sold for 2. and another of Saxe Hildburghausen, (M. 397,) sold for 1.50; either of these would be cheap at five times the price, being excessively rare, and the latter especially so, and unknown to Merzdorf, while some others which are quite common, of bronze, brought as good or better prices. As a whole the sale was successful.

WOODWARD'S FORTY-FIFTH SALE.

W. ELLIOT WOODWARD's Forty-fifth Sale was made at Bangs & Co.'s, March 6th and following days. The Catalogue contained 3631 numbers, and the sale occupied an entire week. We quote a few prices as follows: Dollar, 1839, pr. \$36. Half Dollar, 1796, 49; do. '97, 35. Quarter Dollar, 1796, v. f. for date, 10. Half Dimes, 1794, uncir. 10.40; '96, f. 5.70; '98, sixteen stars, v. f. 10.01; 1805, 10.50. Half Cents, 1796, 16.10; 1836, pr. 13.50; 1844, 11. Barber's Pattern Set, 36. Longacre's Dollar, 19.05. Mormon Double Eagle, 43.50. Washington Half Dollar, 1792, silver, f. 45.50. Proof Sets, 1854, 40; '58, 45. Matanzas Bay Medal, 15.80; Crown of William IV., 24. Three Greek Staters sold for \$18 each. Henry IV., Noble, 17; Elizabeth, Sovereign, 16.50; Charles I., Sceptre, 10.50; a quintuple Crown of

1647, 22; Commercial Dollar of 1872, 36.29. The American coins generally sold at full prices, especially rare or exceptionally fine pieces, which are sure to hold their own. The gold of private coinage sold unusually well, and the Colonial series, which generally speaking was in only ordinary condition, sold fully up to its value. American Medals brought fair prices, according to the present market, which is certainly unduly low. Why American collectors should be so very enthusiastic over a series of coins differing only in date or some minute particular, and neglect our series of medals, which in themselves are very interesting and historically valuable, is not easily understood. A line of Continental and Confederate money, some postage and revenue stamps and an assortment of fractional currency brought very fair prices, as did also a small Numismatic Library, which formed part of the collection. The proof sets, including all, with a few exceptions, from 1854 to 1880, brought good, generally large prices. The coins of South America, Mexico, and Spain sold unusually well. Greek Tetradrachms, of which there were a goodly number, brought from \$3 to 8.15 each. Roman Family Denarii, of which there were also a good selection, brought from 40 cents to 1.80, and a few Jewish coins brought fair but by no means large prices, as did also the English coins, while coins of France, of which there were many desirable, went at low prices. The leading feature of this collection was the grand series of old German Crowns—double, triple, and quintuple. These, although exceptionally fine, and selected by Mr. Dohrmann with discrimination and good taste, showed in a great degree the falling off which has been remarked in other recent sales; they sold very low indeed, many that are fine and are obtained abroad only with difficulty, went for not much above their specie value. The sale afforded a rare opportunity for collectors of these most interesting pieces, valuable alike for their age, workmanship, and historical importance, to supply themselves. We should not omit to say that the Greek and Roman gold sold remarkably well, as did most of the Oriental coins, a line of Union envelopes, and of fractional gold coins. This fine collection was formed by Mr. A. Dohrmann, a resident of San Francisco, who it is understood does not propose relinquishing collecting, but will in the future give his attention more particularly to coins and medals, exclusively fine or rare.

SCOTT & COMPANY'S FORTIETH SALE.

THIS sale took place on Monday afternoon, Mar. 12, at the rooms of Messrs. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., New York. It contained "Gems from the Collection of Mr. John W. Scott," and the Catalogue is Part I of a series of successive sales announced to take place, in sections, each spring, until his whole collection, comprising "some twenty thousand varieties," is disposed of. This Part, 32 pages, contains 400 lots; it is illustrated by numerous wood cuts, most if not all of which are familiar to the readers of the "Coin Collectors' Journal." The Catalogue is described as prepared by Scott & Co., and we cannot think does them very great credit, either for care in preparation or accuracy of knowledge. Describing the Somers Island Shilling (No. 150), the compiler of the Catalogue quotes Crosby as saying, "but three of these pieces are known to us," and then adds that "high value has induced energetic search, which has resulted in the discovery of perhaps three others." In an article printed in this Journal, Vol. XII, p. 16, in 1877, the existence of *eight* in Bermuda is shown, and there are also some in England beside those in this country; probably ten or twelve is nearer the truth than the intimation of the Cataloguer. So of the Sixpence, of which a note to the article just quoted says, "there are probably four," and one has since been discovered: the compiler of the Catalogue implies that only *two* are known, of which that offered for sale was one. No. 151 was an oak-tree shilling, concerning which the Cataloguer says, "This is the earliest type of the celebrated pine tree money, the first money coined in the colonies," neither of which statements, we believe, is correct:—the first coinage, according to all authorities, being the N. E. pieces, and the *willow* tree designs being older than the oak trees. (See *Journal*, Vol. VIII, p. 27.) No. 163 was the "Confederate Half Dollar," which brought a very "fancy" price, probably bid in, we are informed, under an assumed name. If a *bona fide* purchase, we commiserate the buyer. It was once offered to a well known collector in Boston for considerably less than half the price at which it was bid off, and refused, and one of the pieces and the reverse die was offered to the New York Society as we have been informed, and refused, before its purchase by Mr. Scott. Had we the time or inclination, a number of other statements might be mentioned, which while perhaps in accordance with fact, yet convey exaggerated ideas of value to inexperienced buyers. Aside from these blunders in cataloguing, the mechanical execution was very careless; the typographical errors are numerous, and some are amusing: for instance, the "Coin Collection Journal," mentioned in the description of the Confederate Half Dollar, was one that we should hardly have supposed the "publishers" would have let slip; a funny one is that in 195, where "Munati ahead of Victory" excites curiosity, and the "baton of an Auger" mentioned under 197, shows a curious kind of *bores* in the time of Caesar; possibly this is the one so graphically described by Horace, whom he met on the Via Sacra (Sat. i, ix.). There were many very interesting pieces in the sale, several of which we have referred to above; beside there were a choice assortment of gold coinage, both of the Government and of private issue, California, Mormon, Bechtler, etc., a rare New Jersey copper, "Non vi virtute vici," Decorations, German crowns, etc. We quote prices as follows: *Gold*.—California, Five dollars, 1849, N. Y. & N., \$10; Humbert's Fifty dollar piece, 1852, 61; Colorado, Clark, Gruber & Co., Twenty dollars, 26.50; Carolina, C. Bechtler, 1834, Five dollars, 8; Utah, Two-and-a-half dollars, 1849, 6.75; another, 7.75; another, 1850, 8. *Eagles*, '95, 17; '97, 15; '38, 12. *Half Eagles*, '95, 10; '96, 15.25; 1807, 9; *Quarter Eagles*, 1796, 10; 1802, 6.25; others at about twice their face value. Somers Island Shilling, 50; do. Sixpence, 100; Oak tree Shilling, 6.63; Baltimore Shilling, plugged, 7.75; New Jersey copper, "Non vi," etc., said to be unique, 25.50; two Washington Season Medals, silver, different, 25.50 each; Washington, (apparently Appleton 18, though we have never met with one having the *edge inscribed*), silver, 20.50; Dollar of 1794, 75; Cent of 1804, v. f. 50; Confederate Half Dollar, 870; Some ancient Greek silver coins brought very good prices; Jewish Shekel, 35; Grand cross of Isabella the Catholic, 75; other Orders and Decorations from 10 to 26; Bolivian Army Medal, 12; Double Crown of Ernest Augus-

tus, 1680, 15.50; one and a half crown piece of the same, 1681, 12.50; Triple Crown of Breda, dies by Loos, 23; Quadruple Crown, 1650, 25.

COMING SALES.

AMONG the "coming events" in Coin Sales which "cast their shadows before," we chronicle the breaking up of the famous Bushnell Collection, which is soon to be offered by the Messrs. Chapman, and Catalogues of which are now in preparation. For a full account of their plans in regard to this and other choice cabinets, which they are soon to dispose of, we refer our readers to the advertising pages of the *Journal*. It will doubtless attract more attention from collectors of rare American coins and medals than any held for a long time.

MR. WOODWARD has just issued the Catalogue of the Dietrich-Morgan Collection. The sale is set down for April 19, 20, 21, at the usual place in New York City. The collection is of good quality, containing Dollars of 1794, 1839, and 1858; Half Dollar, 1796; a fine line of proof sets of most of the years since 1857; some good cents, and with the exception of the Marvin Collection, the largest variety of Masonic Medals ever offered here at auction. A very full assortment of the Hard Times or Jackson Tokens is a feature of the sale. These are nearly all illustrated on two heliotype plates which the Catalogue contains. In our January issue, we referred to a large and celebrated collection for which Mr. Woodward was then negotiating. He informs us that he has since completed the purchase, and that the coins, medals and numismatic library of the late Dr. Winslow Lewis, the collection referred to, will be offered as one of his series of sales, probably early in the fall. He has also on hand, in addition to one or two more coin sales, the material for two large sales of Prehistoric American and European Stone Implements, the collections of Dr. J. Grier Ralston, of Norristown, and of Mr. Norman Spang, of Etna, Pennsylvania, the last a recent purchase. Besides these, several tons of South Sea Islands Arms, Implements and "Curios," shipped to him by way of Cape Horn, are expected to arrive in time for the next season's sales.

OBITUARY.

JUDGE JOHN PHELPS PUTNAM.

THE Hon. John Phelps Putnam, Associate Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, died very suddenly at his home, No. 60 Commonwealth Avenue, January 5. The cause of death is reported to be pneumonia. Judge Putnam was born in Hartford, Conn., March 21, 1817, and was the son of a prominent business man, and at one time Mayor of that city. The Putnam family were descendants of the same ancestor as that of General Israel Putnam of Revolutionary fame. Young Putnam prepared for College in the Grammar School of Hartford, entered Yale College in 1833, graduating in 1837, and in due course received the degree of A. M. Among the members of his class who have since achieved a national reputation, are Secretary Evarts, Chief Justice Waite of the United States Supreme Court, and the Hon. Edwards Pierrepont, late Minister near the Court of St. James. Immediately after his graduation, Mr. Putnam entered the office of the late Hon. William W. Ellsworth, of Hartford, afterward Governor of Connecticut, and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of that State. He received a two years' course of instruction in the Harvard Law School, which conferred on him the degree of LL. B. He entered the office of Mr. Sidney Bartlett, one of the most prominent members of the Suffolk bar, and remained with him until his admission to the bar in 1840, when he immediately began an independent practice in this city, and met with excellent success. In 1857-8 he held the office of Judge of Probate of Suffolk County, having succeeded the Hon. Edward G. Loring, who is now one of the Judges of the Court of Claims at Washington. Prior to this time, he had held for a number of years the office of Commissioner of Insolvency for the County of Suffolk. At the establishment of the present Superior Court of Massachusetts, in 1859, Judge Putnam received his appointment to the position occupied by him at the time of his death.

While still in the midst of his active professional duties, Judge Putnam found time from 1847 to 1858, to edit no less than fifteen volumes of the Annual Digest of the Decisions of all the courts of the United States. He was also prominent in political life, serving as a member of the Legislature from the city of Boston in 1851-52, and as a member of the Common Council of the city in 1848, 1849, 1850 and 1851. He participated actively in the measures which were taken to induce the State and city to combine their interests, and improve the flats south of Charles Street, which resulted in the filling up of the large area now known as the Back Bay territory. He had a lively interest in the free-school system, and served as a member of the Boston School Committee, in 1847, 1856, 1857, 1858 and 1859. His love of music, and interest in musical projects is well known. He was one of the trustees of the Boston Music Hall, and was one of the chief promoters of the enterprise which resulted in placing the great organ in that building. During several years past he has been President of the Apollo Club. He visited Europe during the last performance of the Passion Play at Oberammergau, and, on his return, wrote a lecture of great interest concerning it, and, at the request of many friends, delivered it in the Music Hall

before a large audience. The lecture was afterwards repeated on one or two occasions in compliance with many requests. Judge Putnam was a devoted numismatist, and formerly owned a collection, which was very choice, though not large; he had however sold it some years ago. He was elected a member of the Boston Numismatic Society, 2d November, 1860. He was its Vice President, January, 1865, to January, 1872. He also served several times on the Assay Commission. Judge Putnam was a member of the Episcopal Church, and was, in his relations thereto, as in all other relations, an active worker. He was Clerk of St. Paul's Church a number of years, holding that position until quite recently, when he severed his connection and became a member of Emmanuel parish. He was one of the trustees of the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge. Among other positions of honor and trust committed to him, were those of the presidency and trusteeship of the Yale Alumni Association of Boston.

Judge Putnam was married in 1842 to Harriette, daughter of the late Judge Thomas Day of Hartford, Conn., and his wife survives him. He also leaves two daughters, one of them the wife of Mr. Robert S. Peabody, the architect of this city. In his social relations he was one of the most agreeable of men, and in his death, his wide circle of personal friends, as well as the profession, suffers a loss that will be most keenly felt. When the announcement of his death reached the Superior Court, Judge Pitman, who was presiding, immediately adjourned the Court.

HENRY ADRIEN PREVOST DE LONGPERIER.

THE death of this distinguished French antiquary is announced. He was born at Paris in 1816, and in 1835 was employed in the numismatic section of the Bibliotheque Royale. In 1837 he was admitted a member of the Society of Antiquaries, and in 1847 succeeded M. Duboise as custodian of the Egyptian museum in the Louvre. Subsequently he was put in charge of the Assyrian and Mexican departments, the former collection having been established by him. In 1854 he was elected a member of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres, and received the Legion of Honor in 1863.

EDITORIAL.

THE present number completes another volume of the *Journal*, and we take this opportunity to thank our friends, not only for continued support, but for the many kind expressions of good will and compliment which we have received during the year. We shall spare no effort to make the new volume an improvement on its predecessors. The able and exhaustive articles on Early Spanish and Portuguese Coinage, by the Hon. J. C. Brevoort, will be continued with illustrations of the more interesting pieces. Mr. McLachlan's valuable catalogue of Canadian Coins and Medals will also be continued. Our reports of Coin Sales we shall make as full as our space will allow, and we shall endeavor to give a *resume* of the transactions of the leading Numismatic Societies of the Country. Some contributors whose names are already familiar to our readers have in preparation other descriptive lists of Medals, which have been so popular a feature of the *Journal* in the past, and of these announcements will be made hereafter.

THE number of Coin Sales which are now so frequently held, and the great value of some collections which are soon to be offered, shows a marked increase both of interest and of appreciative buyers, over late years. We especially call attention to the advertisement of the Messrs. Chapman, who are preparing catalogues of several very choice collections.

J. W. HASELTINE, 1225 Chesnut St., Philadelphia, has for sale a work on Colonial Coins, and the Coins and Coinage of the U. S. Mint, it contains a large number of illustrations. In paper cover, 40 cents; cloth, 75 cents; half bound, \$1.00.

CURRENCY.

Get gold, if you can, young man; but beware of guilt.

When a man coins his own words, he does not necessarily make cents of them.

"The Philadelphia Mint is to be removed to new quarters." Fogg thinks the old quarters are good enough if he gets plenty of them.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SALES

OF THE

BUSHNELL, BRADBURY & SHANNON COLLECTIONS.

WE would respectfully inform collectors that the celebrated collection of the late CHARLES I. BUSHNELL, Esq., of New York City, has been placed in our hands to catalogue and sell at auction, at an early day.

We expect to hold two sales within the next few months, viz:—

First.—The collection of Mr. H. B. BRADBURY, of Illinois, of American Coins, containing a collection of the United States series, including a 1794 dollar, very fine and rare dimes and half-dimes, half-dollars, cents, etc., and the collection of War Medals and Decorations of the late JOHN R. SHANNON, of Philadelphia, to be sold about April 14th.

Second.—The collection of the late CHARLES I. BUSHNELL, Esq., of New York City, of American Coins and Medals. This will be the finest sale of this description held within the past fifteen years, and, perhaps, the finest ever sold. Mr. BUSHNELL collected only pieces pertaining to this country. Among the Colonials, Washingtons and Early Patterns or issues of the U. S. Mint, are some pieces of the highest rarity, and several unique, and specimens of which have never been sold at auction. All the coins and medals are in the finest possible condition, almost without exception, as Mr. BUSHNELL did not spare expense to improve the condition of them.

The Colonials include the Massachusetts Samaritan Shilling, unique; Brasher's New York Doubloon; New York Excelsior, George Clinton, Liber Natus; Inimica Tyrannis; Virginia Shilling; Lord Baltimore Shilling, Sixpence and Groat in Silver, and Penny in Copper, unique; a Chalmer's Shilling, unique; New Jersey, date under the beam, unique, etc. The Washingtons include five silver half-dollars, one half-dollar, unique; naked bust cent; cents of 1791-2, etc. The Early Patterns or Issues are complete, containing the large Liberty Cent, by Birch; the cent of 1792, reverse, eagle on a globe, unique outside of Mint Cabinet; the Silver Centre Cent; the Disme and Half-Disme. In the United States Mint issues, the 1794 dollar is fine and a good impression. Many dollars, half-dollars, quarter-dollars, dimes and half-dimes are in extraordinary condition. The cents and half-cents are one of the finest series ever sold, etc. The proof sets date from 1854. The collection of Medals is one of the finest in the country, containing 20 Silver Medals of the Peace of 1783, including the Libertas Americana; the Washingtons embrace several unique, and all the finest known, among them a set of the Season Medals in silver and copper. Those of Franklin, La Fayette, and the Presidents are very fine.

We will charge a small sum for the Catalogue of the Bushnell collection, and intend to make it a work of reference, and not spare expense in the execution of the letter-press. It will always be worth the price. Each copy will cost us for printing alone more than the amount charged. The Catalogue will be quarto size, with a large margin for binding, marking, and pricing.

We will publish a catalogue, with plates of quarto size, by the phototype process. It will require *ten plates* (10), and probably more.

This catalogue will be uniform with Crosby's "Early Coins of America." It will be a sequel to many of the "pieces belonging to an unknown owner" in his work, and which are not in his photographic plates.

The price of the catalogue, postage paid, 4to., 50 cents.

The catalogue and printed list of prices to be sent after sale, \$1.00.

The plate catalogues, 10 plates, quarto. A printed list to be sent after the sale, \$5.

It is our intention to print only about the number of catalogues necessary, and collectors are requested to send in their orders for the catalogues at once, as we desire to know how many will be needed before going to press, about April 10th.

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—*North American Review*, Jan. 28th, 1879.

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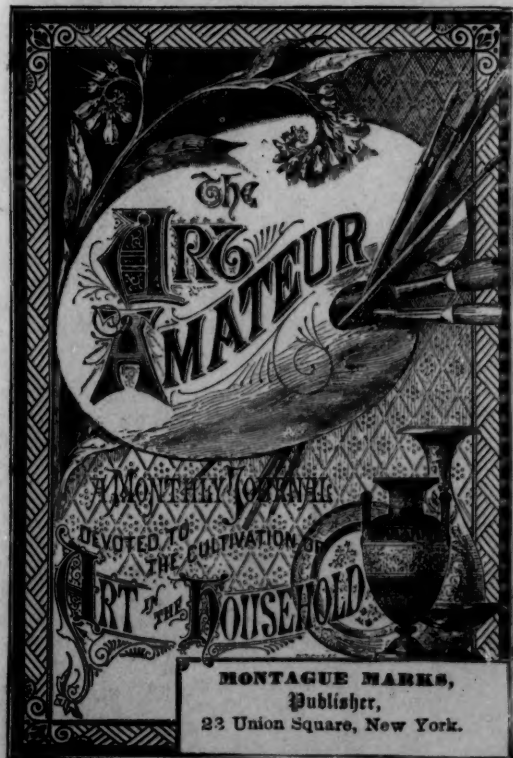
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